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Remarks/Arguments:

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2006.

Claims 1-51 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-51.

Claims 1-5, 7-20, and 24-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gehani et al. U.S. Patent 5,765,171.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerhani and further in view of Mosher et al., U.S. Patent 6,785,696.

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerhani and further in view of Fiske U.S. Patent 6,324,692. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Gerhani et al., does not describe a system with a master user layer, master service layer, slave service layer and slave user layer as claimed in claim 1. The use of two layers at each side allows for abstraction of the services. The user layer corresponds to, but is not the same as, a user. As shown by claim 1 and by figures 4 and 5 of the present invention, the user layer is not a user but is software that interacts with other layers. For this reason, claims 1, 36, 40 and their dependent claims 2-35, and 37-38 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 41, and 46-51 include a master server layer and slave service layer. Such a limitation is not shown or suggested in the Gerhani reference. Claims 42-45 are dependent upon claim 41 and for that reason are believed to be allowable.

For the above discussed reasons, claims 1-51 are believed to be allowable and such is respectfully requested.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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